LEGEND'S OBAMA RALLY NOOKIE

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Corruption. The Manhattan District Attorney's office, the Department of Investigation and the NYPD busted a $450,000 bribery scandal that included staff from the Department of Housing and the Department of Historic Preservation and Development.

PAGE 02

Shame of the city

A realtor lock at 30 Woodhull Street, in Brooklyn, a property owned by Gino Vitale, indicted in the city's big bribery and fraud bust. / ALAN CHIN, METRO

Indictment for officer who shot Akai Gurley

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Anne Hathaway has more to prove

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Horace Grant talks Phil, battles with Knicks

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Why Scandinavian food is taking over the U.S.'

2 'Interview: David Cross on "Hits," millennials and his unusual Kickstarter campaign'

3 'New study makes Hollywood's woman problem official'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Buildings on Carroll Street (above) and DeGraw Street (right) were part of the $450,000 bribery scheme involving Department of Building and Department of Historic Preservation and Development employees. / ALAN CHIN, METRO

DA busts building bribery scheme

Betrayal. Corruption charges brought against Department of Buildings employees.

It was a stunning scheme tearing at the very fabric of the supposed safeguards to protect New Yorkers — and keep their apartments affordable.

A jaw-dropping web of crooked city building and housing inspectors, contractors and landlords were slapped yesterday with corruption counts that stunned even the most rabid of tenant advocates.

The investigation was handled by the Manhattan District Attorney's office, the Department of Investigation and the NYPD.

More than 50 people were indicted.

A significant chunk of the $450,000 in kickbacks came from one man, whose very job was to try and speed his clients' building permits, inspections and housing violation fixes through the city's cumbersome bureaucracies.

They called David Weiszer the expediter — and his practices and his past were unorthodox. Among the skeletons in his closet is an arson conviction and allegations he flooded a Pennsylvania river with industrial waste. (He pleaded down to a Solid Waste Management violation in 2009.)

Yet somehow in New York, his closest pals were the Buildings Department's chief for Manhattan development, Donald O'Connor, and Janelle Daly, a Buildings Department filing rep whose hubby was O'Connor's Brooklyn counterpart.

Here's just a sample of what Weiszer allegedly showered on Daly and her husband: "$200,000 in mortgage payments, a Nissan Rogue SUV, a GMC Terrain SUV and a Royal Caribbean cruise, as well as cash for airline tickets, home renovations and other personal expenses."

O'Connor also allegedly took bribes from the owner of McHale's Pub, Jack Dempsey's, and Bourbon Street to make violations go away.

"Bribery schemes compromised two important city agencies and fair competition in our robust housing and real estate development markets," Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance said of the case, which involves more than a hundred buildings in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

"Today's cases demonstrate that the same surging demand that drives the pace of development can inspire the taking of shortcuts, and the taking of bribes."

Ilana Maier, program director at the Metropolitan Council on Housing, said the scandal uncovered by Vance, the Department of Investigation and the NYPD is just the tip of the iceberg for city agencies that need a lot more accountability.

JOHN A. OSWALD
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

By the numbers

450K
More than $450,000 changed hands.

11
Eleven Department of Buildings employees arrested.

5
Five Department of Historic Preservation and Development (HPD) employees were arrested.

$20K
One Brooklyn property manager paid an HPD employee $20,000 to wipe away 476 violations.

Cornerstone

Bust follows mayor's plan for affordable housing

The scandal in the Building and Housing departments come a week after Mayor Bill de Blasio spent a huge chunk of his State of the City address to push his affordable housing construction plan.

"If we fail to be a city for everyone, we risk losing what makes New York New York," de Blasio said.

Diversity — including income levels — makes the city that much better, he said, vowing to create 80,000 units of new affordable housing.

Perhaps foreshadowing what was to come Tuesday, he also called for tenant protections.

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Manhattan

Jurors hear confession in Patz trial

Jurors watched Pedro Hernandez confess to strangling 6-year-old Etan Patz in 1979 in court on Tuesday, as prosecutors played his videotaped police interview.

Hernandez, 54, was a teenage stock clerk at a SoHo deli when Patz disappeared in 1979. He confessed to the killing in 2012.

Patz's body was never found, and the child was legally declared dead in 2001.

Hernandez said he convinced Patz to come to the deli's basement, luring him with soda, and that he "just couldn't let go" when he started choking the child.

"I felt like something just took over me, and I was choking him," Hernandez said, according to Reuters.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Indictment for officer who shot Akai Gurley

Grand Jury. Reports say Officer Peter Liang to be charged with manslaughter for 2014 shooting.

The rookie cop who shot and killed Akai Gurley in a poorly lit stairwell in a Brooklyn housing project was reportedly indicted on Tuesday.

Reports leaked Tuesday afternoon that the Brooklyn District Attorney's office would charge Officer Peter Liang, 27, for shooting Gurley on Nov. 20 during a routine patrol in East New York's Pink Houses.

First reported by NY1, the DA's office did not confirm the indictment, saying grand jury deliberations remain sealed until Wednesday. Liang is expected to turn himself over to authorities on Wednesday.

The grand jury began deliberating Feb. 4. Liang faces at least one charge of manslaughter in the degree charge, which can carry up to 15 years in prison.

Pat Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, leaped to Liang's defense.

"This officer deserves the same due process afforded to anyone involved in the accidental death of another," Lynch wrote in a statement. "The fact that he was assigned to patrol one of the most dangerous housing projects in New York City must be considered among the circumstances of this tragic accident."

Gurley, 28, died from a gunshot wound to his chest after investigators said Liang "accidentally discharged" a single shot as an unarmed Gurley and his girlfriend opened a door to the stairwell.

Police said Liang was patrolling the stairwell with a flashlight in one hand and a gun in the other, one flight above the door Gurley stepped out of before he was shot.

Protests and questions surrounded the Nov. 20, 2014, shooting in East New York's Pink Houses. / AARON ADLER

Quoted

"This officer deserves the same due process afforded to anyone involved in the accidental death of another."

Lynch

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Transit

Record number of riders used JFK AirTrain

Last year, 6.5 million people rode the AirTrain to JFK from the Howard Beach and Jamaica stations, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office said Tuesday.

Cuomo said ridership was up 250 percent since the AirTrain debuted in 2004, and up 8 percent from 2013.

Cuomo, who proposed an AirTrain linking LaGuardia Airport with the Willets Point 7 train station and Long Island Railroad last month, said he expects to see the same "return on investment."

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

By the numbers

450M

The plan is expected to cost $450 million.

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Bronx

Police looking for man who robbed taxi driver

Police are looking for a man who tried to pay a taxi fare with fake bills, then brandished a knife and robbed the driver in the Bronx last month.

The driver picked up the suspect around 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10 the the corner of University and Burnside avenues, driving him to University Avenue and 195th Street.

The suspect tried to pay the driver with three different fake $20 bills, and went into an apartment building after the driver wouldn't accept them, police said.

The driver followed the man after he came back outside about two minutes later, and the suspect pulled a knife on the driver and told him to give him money. After getting the driver's cash, the suspect broke one of the taxi's windows and fled on foot toward Claflin Avenue.

He is described as a black male in his mid-20s, 5-foot-10, 180 pounds with close-cut hair.

He was wearing a sweatshirt, dark pants and yellow work boots, police said.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Got info?

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at1-800-577-TIPS.

Deal. City Council at odds with NYCHA

438 East 120th St. public housing to go private — in 2045. / MILES DIXON, METRO

City Council members complained they were shut out of talks between the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and private developers in a deal to sell a stake in six publicly owned buildings.

Plans to sell 50 percent stakes in six especially dilapidated NYCHA properties to L+M Development Partners and BFC Partners were announced in early December as a way to help the cash-strapped agency pay for ongoing repairs.

But on Tuesday, Council members said they weren't consulted about the deal that could turn federally subsidized Section 8 apartments into market-rate homes after 30 years.

"So in essence, we're having a hearing just to be having a hearing, because this is already done," said Brooklyn Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo.

NYCHA Chairwoman and CEO Shola Olatoye affirmed: "This is done."

Even the lawmakers who were aware of the plan still criticized NYCHA for a lack of communication about the plan.

"There's lots of questions when you don't have transparency," said Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. "It's fair to ask how were these developers recruited and vetted."

Beyond transparency, lawmakers questioned previous claims of L+M's hiring contractors who later caught violating worker pay and safety regulations.

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Bio

Shari Bayer

Age: 41
Residency: Columbus Circle
Lives: Alone
Number of jobs: 3

Briefly describe your three jobs.
I have my own PR company, Bayer PR, which I started in 2003. Mondays through Fridays, I'm usually at my desk pitching, answering emails, writing press releases or attending meetings. On Wednesdays, I do a radio show on Heritage Radio Network called "All in the Industry," interviewing people in the restaurant industry. And I write for FathomAway .com about dining and traveling alone, something I do a lot.

Do you feature some of your PR clients on your radio show?
I haven't because I try to separate it, but they do come up in conversation sometimes.

A lot of your work must involve going out at night.
Yes. I typically go out every night during the week and stay in on Saturday nights. I'm the opposite of most people. Luckily, most of my friends are in the industry and like eating out too, so I get to see them that way.

Shari Bayer's made a career out of one of the best things to do in New York City: eating out.
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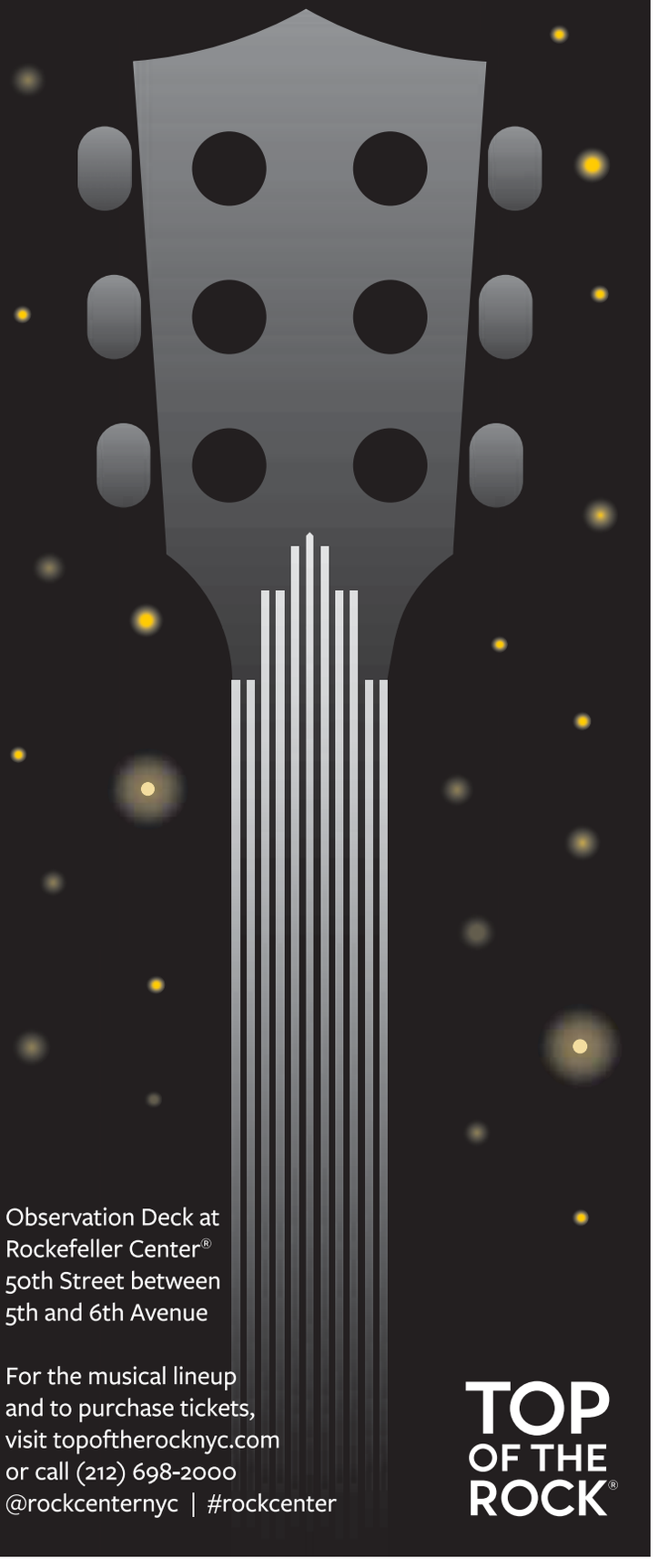

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US hostage held by Islamic State is confirmed dead

Secretary of State. John Kerry said that "ISIL, and ISIL alone, is the reason Kayla is gone."

President Barack Obama and the family of U.S. aid worker Kayla Mueller confirmed on Tuesday that the last-known American hostage held by Islamic State militants had died, with Obama promising to "find and bring to justice the terrorists who are responsible."

U.S. officials said the family received an email and photograph over the weekend from her captors that confirmed her death but said the circumstances in which she died remained unclear.

Islamic State said on Friday that Mueller was killed when Jordanian fighter jets bombed a building where she was being held outside Raqqa, a stronghold of the Islamist militant group.

Jordan and U.S. officials have expressed doubt about the account of her death offered by Islamic State.

Mueller's family said in a statement on Tuesday that they were "heartbroken" to learn of her death and released a copy of a letter she had written in 2014 while in captivity.

"Over the weekend, the family received a private message from Kayla's ISIL captors containing additional infor-

Quoted

"No matter how long it takes, the United States will find and bring to justice the terrorists who are responsible for Kayla's captivity and death."

"ISIL is a hateful and abhorrent terrorist group whose actions stand in stark contrast to the spirit of people like Kayla."

President Obama, who last year ordered American air strikes targeting Islamic State positions, said in a statement

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Mueller was captured in August 2013, while leaving a hospital in the Syrian city of Aleppo. She had been working in Turkey providing humanitarian assistance to refugees from Syria. / MUELLER FAMILY

mation," White House National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said.

"Once this information was authenticated by the intelligence community, they concluded that Kayla was deceased," Meehan said. **REUTERS**

Mueller family

Obama offers his condolences

Obama offered his condolences to Kayla Mueller's parents, Marsha and Carl, and her brother, Eric, saying "Kayla represents what is best about America."

"Kayla's compassion and dedication to assisting those in need shows us that even amongst unconscionable evil, the essential decency of humanity can live on," Obama said.

"Kayla was a compassionate and devoted humanitarian. She dedicated the whole of her young life to helping those in need of freedom, justice and peace," Kayla's family wrote in their statement on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

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Jon Stewart at "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" / GETTY IMAGES

Jon Stewart leaving 'The Daily Show'

Entertainer. A replacement has not yet been named.

Comedian Jon Stewart will leave as the host of Comedy Central's satirical newscast "The Daily Show" later this year, the Viacom-owned network said on Tuesday.

"Through his unique voice and vision, 'The Daily Show' has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come," Comedy Central President Michele Ganeless said.

In December, Comedy Central star Stephen Colbert left the popular "Colbert Report" news satire program to be David Letterman's replacement on CBS's "Late Show."

Stewart's lampooning of public figures and politicians earned him a loyal following across age groups. His show has often been cited as the top news source for young people. It reaches more than 1 million viewers on average.

He began his career in stand-up comedy in New York and took his satirical humor to MTV in 1993, where he hosted "The Jon Stewart Show."

"The Daily Show" has also been a career launching pad for several comedians. REUTERS

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Astronaut. Moon objects found in Neil Armstrong's closet

A treasure trove of objects that were supposed to have been left behind after the first moon landing have turned up in the closet of Neil Armstrong, the first man to step onto the lunar surface, the Smithsonian Institution has said.

Armstrong / GETTY IMAGES

Armstrong died in August 2012 and his wife, Carol, found the items from the 1969 lunar landing as she was cleaning out one of his home closets in Cincinnati, Allan Needell, a space history curator at the National Air and Space Museum, wrote in a recent blog.

Among the objects are a camera that was mounted in the window of the Eagle lunar module to record the landing and two waist tethers. Armstrong used one of the tethers to support his feet during his rest period on the moon, Needell said.

The items were intended to be left behind on the moon but were instead brought back. Needell said that as far as he knew Armstrong had never discussed them and no one had seen them in the 45 years since he returned to Earth.

According to mission transcripts, Armstrong described the objects to astronaut Michael Collins, who stayed in orbit around the moon aboard the command ship, as "just a bunch of trash that we want to take back — LM parts, odds and ends, and it won't stay closed by itself." **REUTERS**

NBC news anchor

Brian Williams suspended after Iraq misstatement

"NBC Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams has been suspended without pay for six months after admitting last week that a story he told about coming under fire while on a helicopter during the Iraq war was not true, the network said Tuesday. "By his actions, Brian has jeopardized the trust millions of Americans place in NBC News," NBC Universal Chief Executive Steve Burke said in a network statement. "His actions are inexcusable and this suspension is severe and appropriate." **REUTERS**

WILLIAMS / GETTY IMAGES

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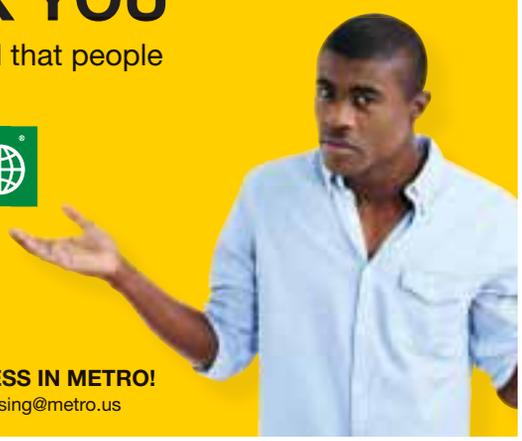

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Why Aren't Doctors Telling About These Two Often

Two Advanced Medical Treatments Every Knee Arthritis Sufferer

by OsteoRelief Center

OsteoRelief Center is a medical clinic with locations in Mid-town NYC, Financial District NYC And north Jersey that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients since 2009.

Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. Including when and why you should consider each of these 2 treatment approaches to get maximum results.

If you suffer with knee arthritis pain, you have probably already tried many treatments ... especially countless pain medications.

Experienced doctors understand that, even though pain medications such as anti-inflammatory pain pills are part of the recommended early treatment plan for knee arthritis pain... they are rarely the answer.

In most cases they have minimal results (if any) and have a laundry list of potential side effects. Some being serious and even life threatening.

Are There Any Better Options?

Thankfully, advancements in science and technology come extremely fast. And now there are two very good options for knee arthritis to help relieve the pain.

Two options that a lot of knee arthritis sufferers have never heard of.

Before we get into the two treatments, please understand this...

OsteoRelief Center is a REAL medical clinic that has treated thousands of knee arthritis sufferers. Patients travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their clinics because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover are two REAL medical treatments. Not miracle cures you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: There is no cure for arthritis. But there are these two treatments that have already helped thousands of knee arthritis sufferers - possibly just like you.

The first treatment is more common than the second. Even if you have heard of this treatment - or even tried it without good results - please read this. You will find out why it may not have worked for you and how you may be able to get much better results.

#1 Viscosupplementation

Viscosupplementation has gained quite a bit of popularity in recent years and it has gotten mixed results for a couple of reasons.

But before we get into that, here's what you need to know about viscosupplementation.

When you have arthritis, you suffer a decrease in the lubrication fluids in your knee.

In other words, your knee joints basically "dries up."

The lubricating fluid that decreases is called "synovial fluid."

Pharmaceutical companies (with the help of scientists) can now make natural synovial fluid gel-like compounds that, during viscosupplementation, treatments... doctors can precisely introduce directly into the knee and other joints.

This helps replace the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - allowing it to move more freely and smoothly and often decreasing or even eliminating the pain.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. But many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years... or even permanently cancel it.

But There Is A BIG Problem

The key is the treatment must be EXTREMELY PRECISE. If the injection is slightly off, the medication will not get into the knee joint and the treatment will not work.

That's why the experts at OsteoRelief Center use advanced digital imaging so they can see the medicine going directly into the knee joint during the treatment.

Research shows that doctors performing joint injections without imaging miss the joint as much as 30% of the time.

If you have tried viscosupplementation without this special digital imaging without good results - this may be why.

That's why OsteoRelief Center takes it even one step further. They do not just use one step process of advanced imaging during treatment - they use two in their "double confirmation" process. This is to ensure patients get the best possible results.

Another Important Factor

Viscosupplementation medications also come in several different brands and chemical make-ups. Just like all medications, some people respond better to some than others. While many doctors only use one brand, the experts at Osteorelief Center use several and great effort is taken to figure out what the best one for YOU is.

One last thing: The experts at OsteoRelief Center have found that the earlier you start Viscosupplementation the better.

This is most likely because the longer you wait - the more joint destruction takes place.

That's why OsteoRelief is now seeing so many patients as young as 45.

Summary: If you have knee arthritis pain and have not tried Viscosupplementation, you should look into it as soon as possible.

If you have tried it without good results, you may still be able to get great results with the proper imaging and specific medication.

What Should You Do If Viscosupplementation Fails?

When conservative treatment, including visco supplementation fail... most knee arthritis sufferers believe their only option is total knee replacement surgery.

This is not true... and here is why

There is another treatment for serious knee arthritis pain most people (and even doctors) do not know about.

#2 Radiofrequency Neurotomy

This treatment is called, "RadiofrequncyNeurotomy." RF for short

RF is a procedure that is based on the theory that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

Several branches of nerves that surround the knee are known as "genicular nerves."

Radiofrequncy waves are delivered to the genicular nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves

ADVERTISEMENT

Knee Arthritis Sufferers Successful Treatments?

Needs To Know - Before Or After Knee Replacement Surgery

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "G Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, Genicular Neurotomy (G - RF) is performed for long term relief.

Is It Safe?

Research has shown this procedure to be safe and effective.

One study published November 4, 2010 in the journal Pain found that RF treated subjects on average "achieved at least 50% knee pain relief at 1, 4 and 12 weeks, respectively. No patient reported a postprocedure adverse event during the follow-up period. RF neurotomy of genicular nerves leads to significant pain reduction and functional improvement in a subset of elderly chronic knee OA pain, and thus may be an effective treatment in such cases."

It should also be mentioned that, like all research, more studies should be done to get even more answers.

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti-inflammatory pain medication and viscosupplementation do not offer good enough results.

RF can be utilized before resorting to total knee replacement. RF allows many patients to avoid knee replacement surgery.

RF has also been found effective AFTER knee replacement surgery when the patient still feels pain.

The pain after a failed knee replacement surgery can be debilitating and this procedure can be the only thing that helps and give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

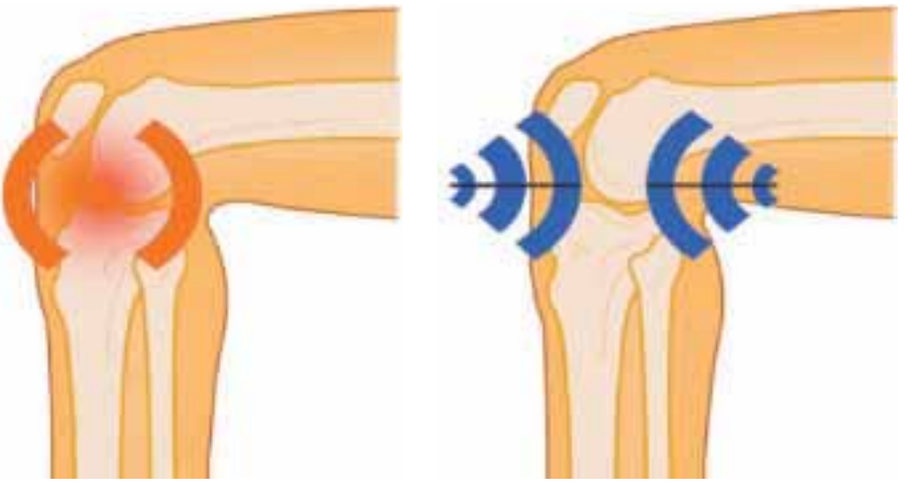
Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof.

This way, the doctors working on your case can give you a proper examination and advise the best possible treatment plan for your individual case.

Several experts work as a team to offer you the best treatment options at the appropriate time to maximize results. It is also very convenient to have all your doctors and treatments in one place. Traveling to different offices can be time consuming and and even more expensive.

OsteoRelief Center believes this "X" factor is one of the reasons so many knee arthritis sufferers travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their advanced medical clinics.

Advanced Treatment Uses Radio Frequencies To Relieve Knee Arthritis Pain



Science rescues knee arthritis sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many.

Your Invitation

OsteoRelief Center offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at OsteoRelief Center.

If you would like a complimentary screening, just call 800-227-KNEE(5633) and tell the scheduling expert who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary knee arthritis screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Kevin Hart is getting into the Irish spirit, Patton Oswalt wants to see more of Spidey's range, Samantha Ronson is starting a new reality TV habit and Conan O'Brien is still reeling.

@KevinHart4real: I'm loving Dublin....I'm enjoying talking to all of my Lads on all of these media outlets.... that's right I said "Lads"....lol

@pattonoswalt: I hope Spider-man does some @Miranda_July movies before these big, noisy blockbusters. Her scripts are great & it'd be a nice challenge.

@samantharonson: watching the bachelor for the first time, does it turn into survivor for the girls who get cut?

@ConanOBrien: I'm shocked. Back when Brian Williams and I killed Osama Bin Laden, he seemed like an honest guy.

1 Will Smith admits 'After Earth' was a 'failure'

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Will Smith is surprisingly frank when it comes to the lack of success of his last big, attempted-blockbuster, "After Earth," which topped out at $60 million at the US box office. "After the failure of 'After Earth,' a thing got broken in my mind. I was like, 'Oh wow, I'm still alive. Oh wow, actually I still am me even though the movie didn't open No. 1,'" Smith says. "All of those things in my mind — my entire 'Mr. July, Big Willy Weekend, No. 1, eight in a row!' — all of that thing got collapsed and I realized I still was a good person." Well, that's super for him. Unfortunately, when it comes to what he took away from that experience, Smith starts to sound a tad bit cult-y. "I completely released the concept of goal orientation and got into path orientation," Smith continues. "It is a huge relief for me not to care whether or not [my next movie] 'Focus' is No. 1 or No. 10 at the box office." I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess his producers actually do care how the movie does, though.

2 Uma Thurman illustrates the power of eye shadow

You might just have to take our word for it that you're looking at a photograph of "Kill Bill" star Uma Thurman, who hit the red carpet for NBC's "The Slap" looking nearly unrecognizable. Her minimal makeup look seems like a perfect opportunity to illustrate just how much of a difference eye shadow and eyeliner can make. Seriously, it's remarkable. Or maybe it's just the contrast from the very red lipstick and the nearly makeup-free eyes. Or the lack of distinctive bangs. Or the fact that she didn't really feel like smiling. Also, we do red carpet premieres for NBC miniseries now? Huh.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
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3 Did John Legend get busy at an Obama fundraiser?

Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign was really, really inspiring — and apparently a turn-on for John Legend and Chrissy Teigen. When pressed by "Extra" on the Grammys' red carpet about the best public place they've ever made whoopee, Teigen blurts out, "Probably the Obama thing." But when pressed for details, Legend clams up. "We're not talking about that. We're not going to discuss that," Legend insists. Teigen at least wants to make clear that it was "not at the White House," with her husband teasing that the dirty deed took place before Obama was elected. So, who wants to go back and check what campaign stops Legend appeared at in 2008?

Daily video

Weird Al gets Whiplashed

Weird Al Yankovic is taking the prep for his upcoming world tour very seriously. Maybe a little too seriously, according to this new College Humor video that pits Yankovic against Oscar nominee J.K. Simmons' terrorizing "Whiplash" music teacher. If you've always loved tense Oscar movie stand-offs and accordion-drenched polka, but never dreamed of blending the two together, this is your moment.

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Hathaway has ‘something to prove’

Interview.
The actress talks producing her first film, “Song One,” and her favorite tune.

Anne Hathaway doesn’t sing in “Song One,” a music-themed drama in which she plays an anthropology student who falls for a soft-spoken troubadour (Johnny Flynn). But the Oscar-winning actress did produce it — her first such job, which she did with her husband, Adam Schulman. Not that working with her spouse proved uncomfortable.

What was it like working so closely with your husband?
It was not difficult at all. He is very natural as a producer. He’s very good at supporting everyone without needing the spotlight. He became everyone’s ear and rock, or at least mine. Even at the beginning of our relationship, I was always private, because I protect my work. Then I invited him into the process and started sharing everything with him. It was a sort of complete exploration of us as partners.

Anne Hathaway stars in and co-produced the music-themed drama “Song One,” now on VOD. / A24

“I ALWAYS ASSUME THAT EACH FILM IS THE LAST AND I’M ASSUMING I HAVE TO GO OUT AND CONVINCE EACH DIRECTOR TO HIRE ME,” SAYS ANNE HATHAWAY. WIREIMAGE

What was it about this project that so appealed to you?
I found it to be something universal. For me, the film captures something that sounds very New Age, like the power that music has to cure. It doesn’t sound right to say it and that is why it is much better to explore it in film. I like stories about second chances.

This has a lot of singer/songwriter music. What do you listen to?
Jenny Lewis. She has a song called “A Better Son-Daughter,” and it never fails to get me out of the deepest moments.

Is there a song you associate with a certain time of your life?
That’s a question people have been asking me lately, and I wasn’t able to answer until now. The song is “Say Yes” by Elliott Smith. That’s the song I built my entire performance on for “Rachel Getting Married.” And my heart still stops when I hear it.

The future

What’s next for Anne

Despite her Oscar, Hathaway doesn’t rest on her laurels. “I have never lost the feeling that I have something to prove,” she tells us. “I always assume that each film is the last and I’m assuming I have to go out and convince each director to hire me. I still accept auditions. I have never felt that I made it.

“On the other hand, I’m happy not to be that girl who is terrorized with interviews and always trying to impress without honoring her own personality [anymore], because I had no idea who I really was.”

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TRENDING THIS VALENTINE'S DAY: ANEMONES AND RANUNCULUS. ISTOCK

Flowers. Why you should pick up your V-Day bouquet from the cute local florist.

Don't show up with stale roses

Impress your Valentine with a creative bouquet — trust us, women don't always want roses. / PROVIDED

Valentine's Day is here. And while it may be easier to order flowers using mega-companies like 1-800-Flowers, it's time to consider the hipper and more sustainable alternative: buying local.

"I love roses as much as the next woman, but I've realized that most roses sold at Valentine's Day — in fact, 98 percent of them — are out of season, imported and therefore are anything but sustainable," says Debra Prinzing, founder of Slowflowers.com, an online directory helping users find florists — including supermarkets — that stock domestically grown flowers.

Jessica Stewart, of Foxglove Floral Design Studio in Brooklyn, likes to use flowers that thrive in the winter for her arrangements, such as anemones, ranunculus, privets and hellebores.

"We just want to offer people a breath of fresh air and really allow our designs to be unique," she says.

Bess Wyrick, of Celadon and Celery, located in NYC and L.A., says she only uses what she can get from growers in the area, regardless of which part of the country the client is in. The designer also offers remote consultations and sends her design plan to a customer's local florist.

"I'll bring flowers from Los Angeles to New York if I need to — at least it's still grown in the United States," she says.

But at the end of the day, buying stems from your local florist ensures you'll be giving your Valentine something special.

"Your love is not cookie-cutter, and you should be getting something unique for your love instead of something generic," says Stewart.

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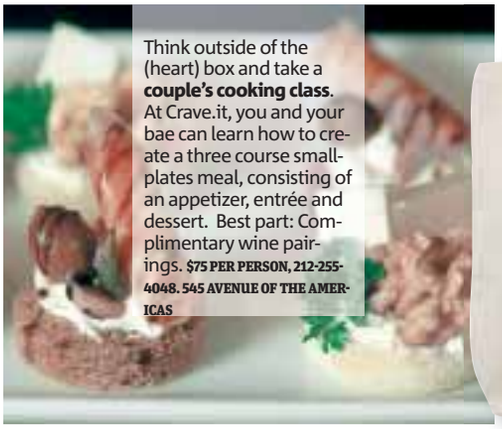

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Aamaya By Priyanka rose gold pearl bunny earrings, $325, AVENUE32.COM

Forget the traditional heart. Aimee Wilder's new wallpaper design features twelve molecular formulas of neurochemicals that are essential for love. **Love Molecule wallpaper, $165-$180 PER ROLL, AIMEEWILDER.COM**

That's amore

Gift guide. You might roll your eyes at Valentine's Day but trust us — you want to drop hints for one of these.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
tina.chadha@metro.us

Snuggle up. **Boll & Branch 100 percent organic cotton cable knit throw, $115, BOLLANDBRANCH.COM**

Yes, there is such a thing as **superfood chocolate** — these yummies are packed with antioxidants and nutrients. **$9, ALOHA.COM**

Imagine waking up to this. **Heart Coffee Stencil, $15, SOPHIAVICTORIAJOY.ETSY.COM**

You'll get points for cutest sweets when you show up with **Malvi's raspberry hibiscus marshmallows, $6, MALVIMALLOW.COM**

Now that's a sexy bottle. **Bedell Cellars First Crush red 2013, $25, BEDELLCELLARS.COM**

3 for the guys

Spoil your man this V-day

Jimmy Choo Man, $82, BLOOMINGDALES.COM

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Jack Erwin Hubert Long Wing Blucher, $195, JACKERWIN.COM

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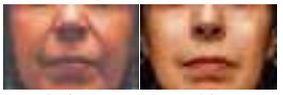

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5 Myths to ditch for a happier relationship

Valentine's Day. Ditch your "girly thoughts" and get real about love.

Set aside expectations on Valentine's Day and use it to reconnect. ISTOCK

Love can be the many-splendored thing of poetry, but the notion of Valentine's Day is flawed to the point of actually sabotaging relationships.

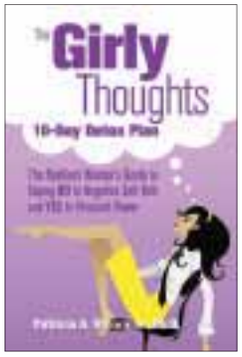
"It's kind of a massive setup for having our self-worth dashed, because it's become too important and too narrow," says Dr. Patricia O'Gorman.

The price of those expectations is that "if it isn't right, we feel disappointed and unloved," she says. Even following the Valentine's script is no guarantee of success: "I know women who get upset when they get their favorite box of chocolates because, 'Doesn't he appreciate that I've lost 10 pounds and now I'm gonna gain it all back?'"

The clash of reality versus expectations doesn't stop and start with one day. In her new book, "The Girly Thoughts 10-Day Detox Plan," O'Gorman aims to wake women up to their "inner Mean Girls club."

"We, as women, internalize all this negativity around us," O'Gorman says. Those "lessons" – from society, pop culture, families and friends – emphasize where they fall short, even when there is plenty to celebrate: "Images of how we're supposed to act and how we're supposed to look are forever around us."

We asked O'Gorman to debunk some common girly thoughts keeping women from having better, happier relationships.



1 My soulmate is out there. "I'm still not sure what that is, but I'm pretty sure I've never met a couple who are soulmates," says O'Gorman. There are no cosmic, fated shortcuts to love. "It takes a lot of work to be with somebody."

2 He should know what I need. O'Gorman likes to turn this one around on her female clients. "I will ask the woman what she needs, and she's not sure! So that's asking a lot of somebody," O'Gorman notes.

3 I must satisfy him in bed. If your sex life is all about him, what will you eventually default into? "If you fake enough orgasms, you begin to lose interest in sex." If you want to satisfy your partner, you need to know what "does it" for you. Figure out – or let him help you figure out – what that is, and find your way to his pleasure through you.

4 His anger is about me. Feelings remain in the realm of "not quite manly" for guys, which can be frustrating for him and you. Instead of admitting he's anxious, for instance, O'Gorman says a man "might get angry or distant, or he may challenge what you're doing. But that may not be because he doesn't care about you."

5 It should be like the movies. "[Popular culture] has distorted, in some ways, what it is that's realistic that we can get from another human being," says O'Gorman. Not knowing what's real can be disempowering and lead us to simply give up when we hit a bump.

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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Do your best to clear up financial uncertainty and move ahead with your plans. A short trip will bring big rewards.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Taking charge will help you seal a deal or contract and promote monetary gain. Negotiations will work in your favor if you are bold.

Aries | March 21-April 20 Government agencies, corporations or institutions will influence a decision you need to make. Invest in something you believe in that also has potential.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Your insights and determination will bring benefit to a joint venture. Give loved ones your attention.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Put your best efforts into important tasks. Refuse to concern yourself with what others are doing. Having a backup plan will help you avoid being stranded.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 Be resilient and embrace change. You can surpass your current position if you network, promote your ideas and plug along until you reach your destination.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Check out a group or an activity that stimulates your interest. Real estate or investments can provide added income.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A partnership will bring limitless possibilities if you believe in your abilities and maintain the right to stick to your area of expertise.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 A work-oriented event will trigger an interesting partnership. Turn something you love doing into a lucrative endeavor. If you give it your all, you will prosper.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 It's time to get busy on a home-improvement project or chores that you've left unfinished.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Fight for your rights. Don't allow critical remarks to throw you off track. Don't apply pressure tactics in order to try and win a battle.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Learn from experience. Getting in touch with someone from your past will give you added insight. You have the ability to turn one of your ventures into a enterprise. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1		4			7			
2		6	1				9	3
			2	6				
8					3		6	
	6		7	1	2		8	
	5		4					9
				7	5			
5	1				8	2		6
			9			4		8

		7	3	5			8	
				6	8		3	4
						1	9	
6						8	5	7
			5		6			
5	8	9						6
	5	8						
9	6		7	3				
	1			4	2	5		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Toys are symptom of larger disease of misogyny

Re: 'Toys for boys isn't a real travesty' (Feb. 9)
One in five women in the United States have been sexually assaulted. Women are severely underrepresented in politics — only 20 women serve on the 100-person Senate.

Women far too often face violent crimes including sex trafficking, rape, and domestic violence. And transgender people face staggering rates of violence, attempted suicide, and poverty. All of these travesties are a part of a larger system of misogyny, a part of biases ingrained in our society that lead to very real and upsetting crimes.

The gender bias in toys is a part of this system, a way that young children are taught to follow the misogynistic and heteronormative norms that permeate our society. Until we pay attention to the messages we're sending children about gender identity and gender roles, we have no hope of seeing gender equality in the United States.

The misogyny right in front of us is real, and we have a responsibility to stop it.
JORDAN RUBENSTEIN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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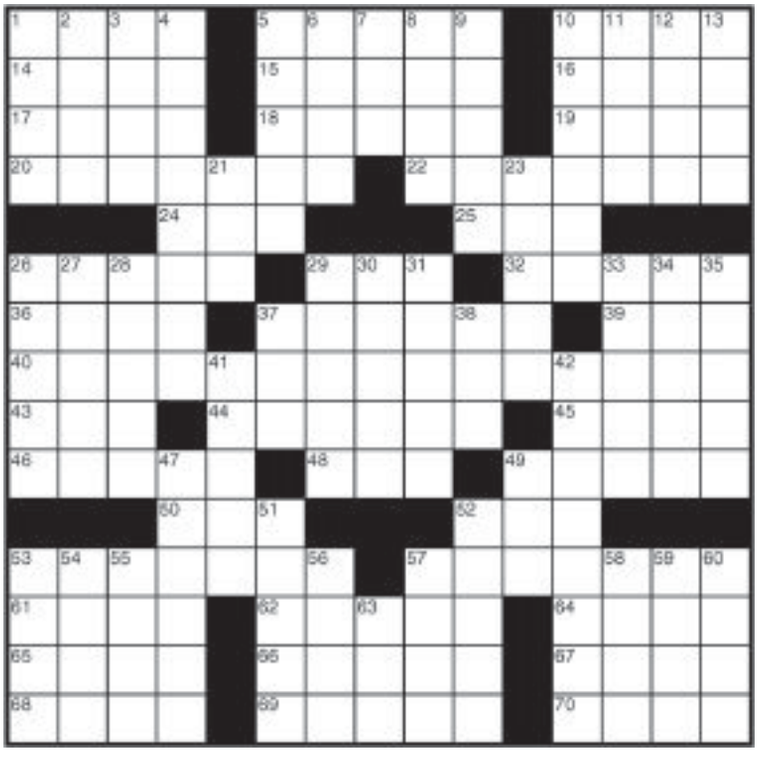
Crossword

Across
1 Heyerdahl book "— Hiva"
5 Summer bulbs
10 Clever remark
14 Qatar neighbor
15 Bolt for a girder
16 Language of Pakistan
17 It's often panned
18 Gung-ho
19 Mellows
20 Leafier
22 Vivify
24 "Maggie May" singer
25 Humor
26 Eggs on
29 New Zealand parrot
32 Missouri mountains
36 Fallon's predecessor
37 Solution
39 Earth, in combos
40 Indecisive (4 wds.)
43 Mouse alert
44 Spuds
45 Operatic tune
46 Novelist — Zola
48 NNW opposite
49 Hunt down
50 Stout and porter
52 How — things?
53 Dangerfield's quest
57 Not rash
61 Puppy noises
62 Go around the world
64 Gratis
65 Toledo's lake
66 They have their pride
67 Horrible boss
68 Dispatch
69 Returnable bottle
70 Leeway

Down
1 80-day traveler
2 Love, to Cato
3 Anecdote
4 Riptide
5 Money-hunger
6 Polygraph flunker
7 Dow Jones fig.
8 Venison
9 Scatter around
10 Hard rock
11 Encourage
12 March 15, in Rome
13 Nudge
21 SS IDs
23 Norway bay (var.)
26 "Seascape" author
27 Amazon port
28 Tiny mushroom
29 Macrame units
30 — Park, Colo.
31 Fully conscious
33 Socrates' hangout
34 Antique
35 Early camera
37 Detective's cry
38 USN officer
41 Stone monument
42 Was fond of (2 wds.)
47 Expired
49 Play about Capote
51 Quebec school
52 — -craftsy
53 Blended whiskeys
54 Gael republic
55 Make a cocoon
56 Neaten a beard
57 Pub order
58 As a result
59 Fictional Wolfe
60 Abound
63 Strut along

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Grant dishes on Phil, MJ,

NBA. Former Bulls, Magic, Lakers star talks one-on-one with Metro.

The latter part of this week, and throughout this coming weekend, New York City will be crawling with former and current NBA stars in town for the All-Star Game. Among them will be one of the more underrated big men of all-time: four-time NBA champion, Horace Grant.

Grant, who won three titles with the Chicago Bulls (1991-93) and one with the Los Angeles Lakers (2001), was a playoff participant in 13 of his 17 NBA seasons, and an All-Star forward (1994). He spoke Metro with tales of his '90s battles against the Knicks, what All-Star weekend means to New York and the current state of the Knicks, as his former coach, Phil Jackson, tries to restore the proud franchise to glory.

TONY WILLIAMS
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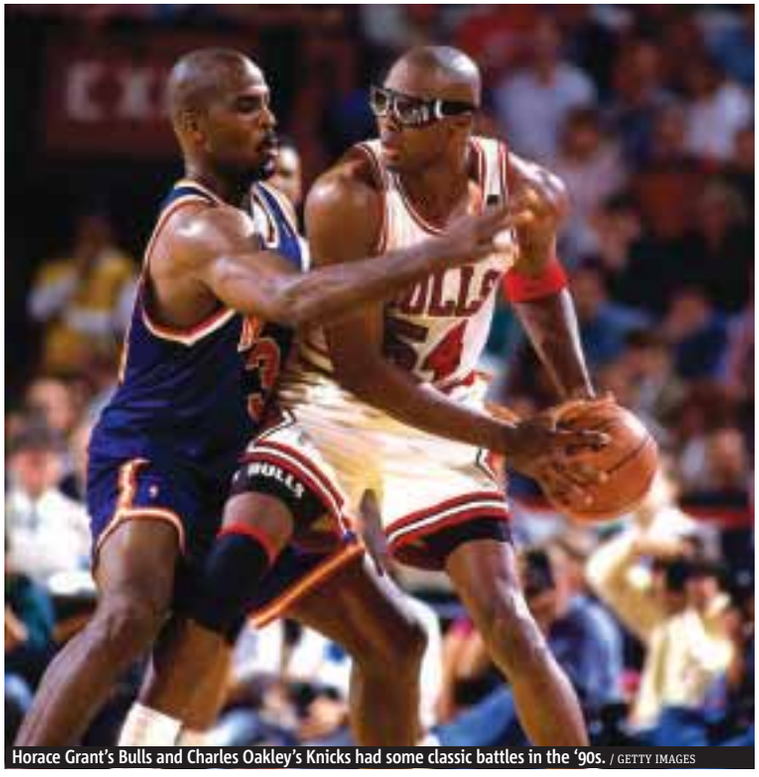
Horace Grant's Bulls and Charles Oakley's Knicks had some classic battles in the '90s. / GETTY IMAGES

What was it like battling the Knicks all those years, during an era when everyone was playing physical basketball? Those Knicks teams took it to another level.
It was great to get the series over with, because it was so grueling. When we met them in whatever round, everyone knew it was going to be some good basketball played. We knew going in, it was going to be tough and we had to get our minds right and body right to go the distance… Those are the series' that made basketball back in the day, because everyone was glued in to see if they would knock off the Bulls.

You were a pretty good scorer in your own right coming out of Clemson (21 points per game, senior year), so what was it like to have to adapt to playing with the likes of Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen?
I was a scorer in college and had a nice jumper, but when you play with guys like them, you have to adjust your game to stay on the floor, and that's what I did. I had to take that scoring mentality out

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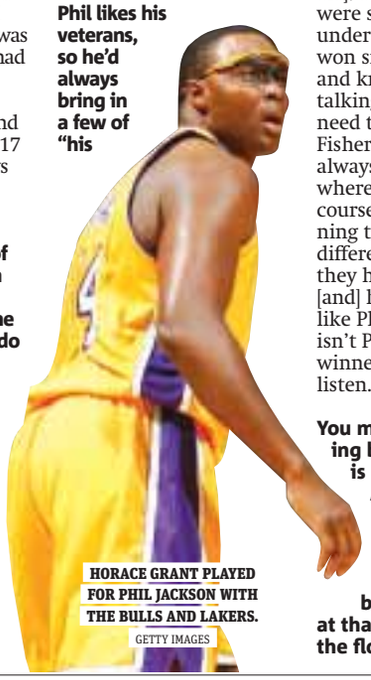
state of the Knicks

of my head.

Was it hard to rein in your game so you could fit in better, knowing those two were going to see the bulk of the shots?
I was blessed to be on some pretty good teams and playing with some outstanding players like Mike [Jordan] and Scottie [Pippen], and Shaq [O'Neal] and Kobe [Bryant], and also Penny [Hardaway] and young Shaq … As long as they appreciated what I brought to the game it was cool [because] I knew I had to do my job. Whether that was to defend, rebound, block shots, and occasionally hit that 15-17 foot jumper, they always knew they could count on me.

You played with a lot of talented guys and for a great majority of your career, you played in the Triangle offense. Why do you think these Knicks are having such a difficult time in learning Phil's system?
In the beginning it is hard, but it's been [more than a] half-season and personally I feel they should've gotten it by now. Once you get it you'll understand [but] you have to have willing participants who want to do it. And when you're not winning, you sometimes have that mind set that you want to do your own thing and you can't do that. To me, if guys like Mike [Jordan] and Kobe [Bryant], two of the best scorers ever can buy in, anybody can buy in. I mean, it helped win 11 championships. But you need willing participants and the right people to do it.

Phil likes his veterans, so he'd always bring in a few of "his guys" to help teach the Triangle at every stop he made. His current staff is littered with guys from his past who know the offense, like Derek Fisher, Kurt Rambis and Jim Cleamons. That should help the transition, right?
Phil always brought in veterans like Ron Harper to teach the Triangle [when Jackson first coached the Lakers], but Shaq and Kobe were so willing to learn under Phil [because he] won six championships and knew what he was talking about. These guys need to respect Derek Fisher, because he's always been a winner wherever he's gone. Of course, if they were winning there'd be a whole different scenario. But they have a young coach [and] his demeanor isn't like Phil's and his voice isn't Phil's, but he's a winner – the guys should listen.



HORACE GRANT PLAYED FOR PHIL JACKSON WITH THE BULLS AND LAKERS.
GETTY IMAGES

You mentioned helping bigs. Your game is reminiscent to Amar'e Stoudemire's, in that while he still flashes some athleticism, he can be a potent scorer at that elbow when on the floor. Could you ever see yourself helping him expand his game even more in the Triangle?
Sure. He can score, but there's more to that. Even now with his talent, once he learns, that young man should be dominating, especially on offensive rebounding. You can get so many in the right position on the weak side, because we have to keep the defense honest on the weak side, so there's room to grab rebounds and get easy baskets.

You mentioned that guys have to "buy in" to what the Triangle offers. Do you think there's any correlation to the recent relative success by the Knicks [5-5 in their last 10 games] since they traded J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert to the Cleveland Cavaliers and brought in hungry vets like Lou Amundson and D-League call-up Langston Galloway?
With the guys they had, guys weren't winning anyway, so why not bring in guys that Phil knows wants to develop in that Triangle and develop that closeness on the team? Phil will be successful, so be patient. Once they learn this offense it will be poetry in motion.

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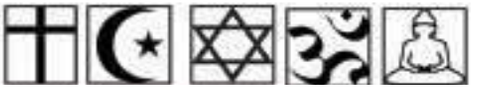

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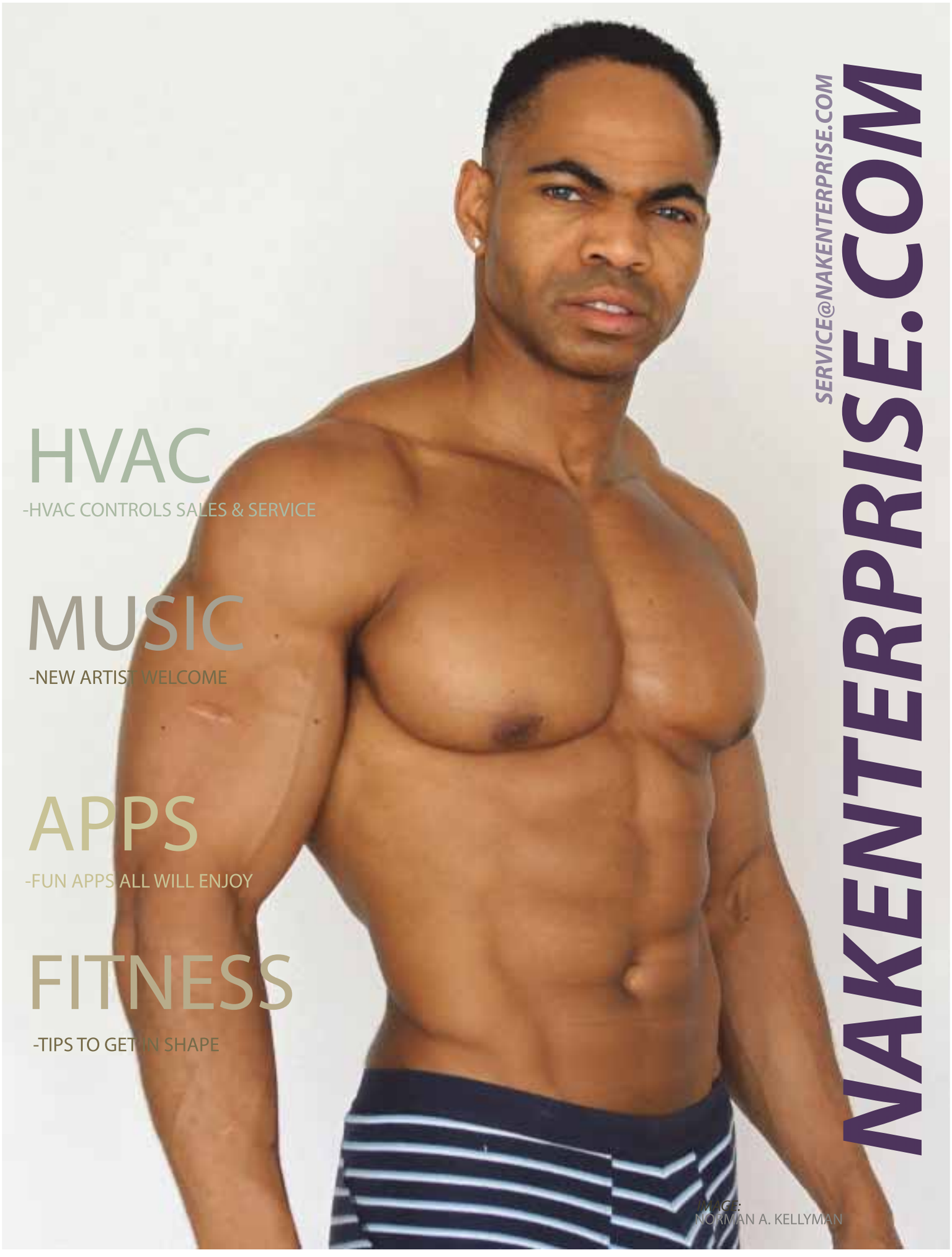

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